DC COMICS™
FOREVER EVIL™
THE NEW 52!
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LEX LUTHOR AND BATMAN: HUMANITY'S LAST HOPE??
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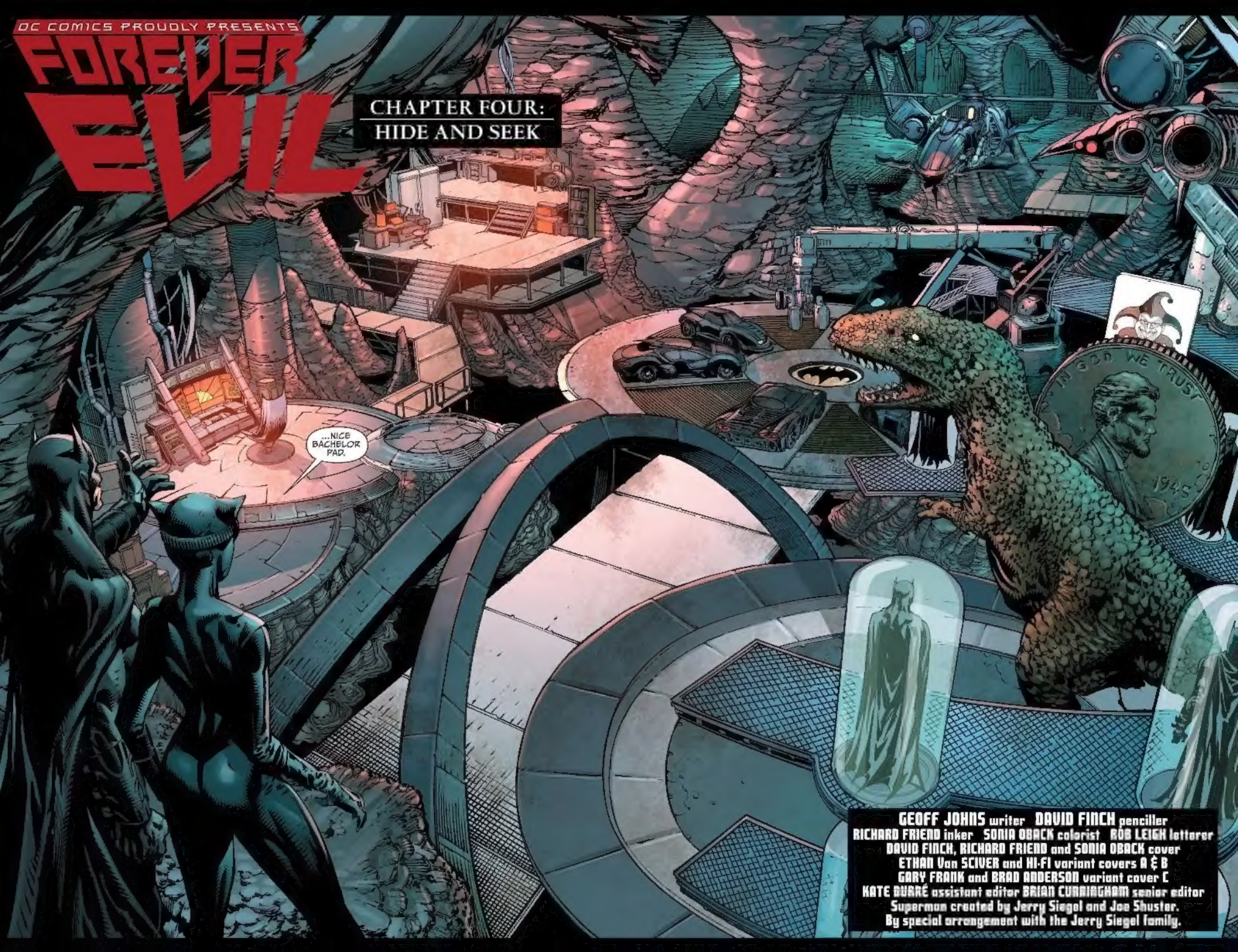
I'LL ADMIT IT.
I'VE IMAGINED A SCENARIO INVOLVING YOU, ME AND A BLINDFOLD BEFORE, BATMAN--
--BUT IT DIDN'T INCLUDE WALKING IN THE COLD FOR HOURS OR THE STENCH OF STALE WATER.
I'M TAKING YOU SOMEPLACE FEW PEOPLE HAVE BEEN, CATWOMAN.
THE LESS YOU KNOW ABOUT ITS EXACT LOCATION, THE BETTER.
THE BETTER FOR YOU?
FOR YOU, SELINA.
THERE ARE SECRETS ABOUT ME YOU'RE SAFER NOT KNOWING.
I HOPE THAT'S NOT ALWAYS TRUE.
IT HAS TO BE.
WOW...


DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS
FOREVER EVIL
CHAPTER FOUR:
HIDE AND SEEK
...NICE BACHELOR PAD.
IN GOD WE TRUST
1945
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GARY FRANK and BRAD ANDERSON variant cover C
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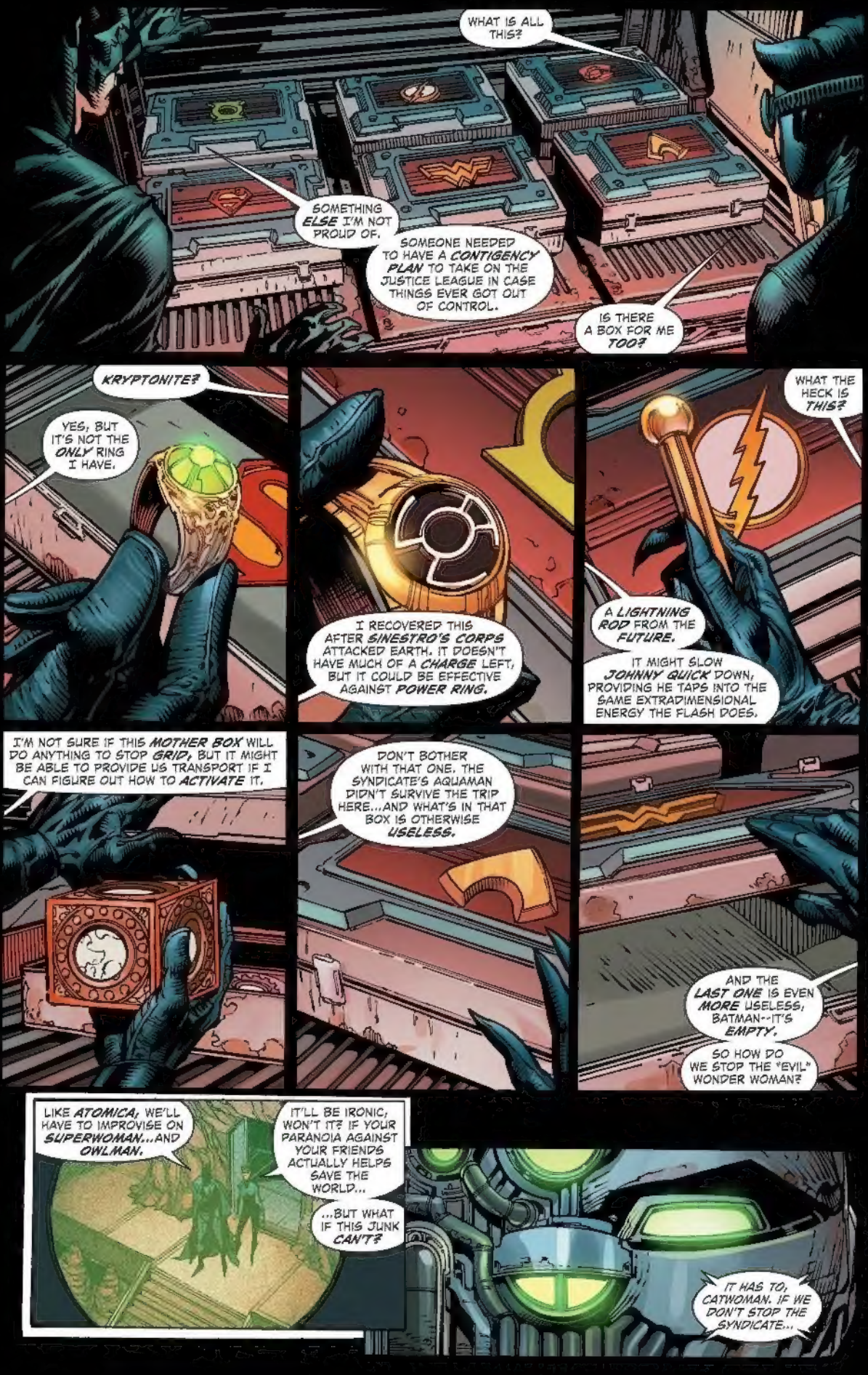
Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster.
By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family.

SO THIS CAVE IS WHERE YOU SPEND YOUR DAYS? PUTTING YOUR DIRTY LAUNDRY ON DISPLAY?
I REMEMBER THE ONE WITH THE CAPSULES ON THE BELT, WHEN ROBIN FIRST CAME ON THE SCENE.
BACK THEN I THOUGHT FOR A SECOND, YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY ENJOY BEING BATMAN.
...
MY MISTAKE.
WITH COMPUTERS UNDER THE SYNDICATE'S CONTROL, THE BATMOBILE'S ARE USELESS, AND MY STEAM-POWERED MOTORCYCLE HAS SEEN BETTER DAYS.
WE'RE GOING TO NEED A DIFFERENT MEANS OF TRANSPORT. I'M SORRY.
YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT CARS OR COSTUMES? OR THAT GIANT DINOSAUR--
--WHICH IS BEYOND RIDICULOUS BY THE WAY.
I CARE ABOUT YOU.
THE JUSTICE LEAGUE MIGHT BE DEAD. THE WORLD'S BEEN TAKEN OVER BY SOME EVIL FACSIMILES.
WE'RE AS CLOSE TO THE LAST MAN AND WOMAN ON EARTH AS WE CAN GET AND YOU STILL WON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT ANYTHING EXCEPT "THE PLAN."
PEOPLE WHO GET CLOSE TO ME GET HURT. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED WITH NIGHTWING. THE CRIME SYNDICATE EXPOSED HIS TRUE IDENTITY TO THE WORLD.
KLK
AND NOW EVEN IF I DO BRING HIM HOME ALIVE... RICHARD GRAYSON'S LIFE'S BEEN DESTROYED.
UNLESS YOU FORCED RICHARD GRAYSON TO BECOME NIGHTWING, THIS ISN'T YOUR FAULT.
I TRAINED RICHARD GRAYSON TO BECOME ROBIN; SELINA, AND AFTER I DROVE HIM AWAY, HE BECAME NIGHTWING.
SO THIS IS MY FAULT.


WHAT IS ALL THIS?
SOMETHING ELSE I'M NOT PROUD OF.
SOMEONE NEEDED TO HAVE A CONTIGENCY PLAN TO TAKE ON THE JUSTICE LEAGUE IN CASE THINGS EVER GOT OUT OF CONTROL.
IS THERE A BOX FOR ME TOO?
KRYPTONITE?
YES, BUT IT'S NOT THE ONLY RING I HAVE.
I RECOVERED THIS AFTER SINESTRO'S CORPS ATTACKED EARTH. IT DOESN'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHARGE LEFT, BUT IT COULD BE EFFECTIVE AGAINST POWER RING.
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?
A LIGHTNING ROD FROM THE FUTURE.
IT MIGHT SLOW JOHNNY QUICK DOWN, PROVIDING HE TAPS INTO THE SAME EXTRADIMENSIONAL ENERGY THE FLASH DOES.
I'M NOT SURE IF THIS MOTHER BOX WILL DO ANYTHING TO STOP GRID, BUT IT MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE US TRANSPORT IF I CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO ACTIVATE IT.
DON'T BOTHER WITH THAT ONE. THE SYNDICATE'S AQUAMAN DIDN'T SURVIVE THE TRIP HERE...AND WHAT'S IN THAT BOX IS OTHERWISE USELESS.
AND THE LAST ONE IS EVEN MORE USELESS, BATMAN--IT'S EMPTY.
SO HOW DO WE STOP THE "EVIL" WONDER WOMAN?
LIKE ATOMICA, WE'LL HAVE TO IMPROVISE ON SUPERWOMAN...AND OWLMAN.
IT'LL BE IRONIC, WON'T IT? IF YOUR PARANOIA AGAINST YOUR FRIENDS ACTUALLY HELPS SAVE THE WORLD...
...BUT WHAT IF THIS JUNK CAN'T?
IT HAS TO, CATWOMAN. IF WE DON'T STOP THE SYNDICATE...

"...WHO WILL?"
SOUTHWEST OF METROPOLIS, THE SUBURB OF MIDVALE.
THE FRIDGE DOCTOR APPLIANCE AND REPAIR.
LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO, I'LL ADMIT I WASN'T ENTIRELY SURE HOW I WAS GOING TO DO THIS.
SOME THINGS TAKE TIME TO FIGURE OUT.
BUT I ALWAYS FIGURE THEM OUT.
APPLIANCE
KRAKAAK
OOMM
MY NAME IS LEX LUTHOR.
PEOPLE SEE A LOT OF THINGS IN THAT NAME.
THEY SEE ME AS A SCIENTIFIC GENIUS.
AND AS UNDERDEVELOPED AS THIS CLONE OF SUPERMAN MAY BE, IT IS STILL UNDENIABLE EVIDENCE OF MY GENIUS.
THEY SEE A SHARK.
LIKE BLACK MANTA, SOMETIMES I SIT IN SILENCE--PATIENTLY WAITING FOR MY CHANCE TO SPILL THE BLOOD OF MY COMPETITORS.
THEY SEE A LEADER.
AS DETERMINED AS BLACK ADAM, WHO FREED HIS HOMELAND OF KAHNDAQ FROM THE OPPRESSIVE LEADERS WHO STEPPED ON ITS PEOPLE.
BUT THEY DO NOT SEE A HUMBLE MAN.
THAT'S BECAUSE FEW KNOW THAT PART OF ME AND FEWER STILL BELIEVE IT.
CAPTAIN COLD REMINDS ME OF THE PEOPLE I GREW UP AROUND. THEY WERE HARDWORKING BUT WITH LITTLE EDUCATION, GLOBAL EXPOSURE OR DRIVE FOR GREATER THINGS.
COLD AND HIS GROUP OF BANDITS LIVE HAND-TO-MOUTH, BUT THEY DO SO WITH A VACUOUS YET ADMIRABLE SENSE OF LOYALTY TO ONE ANOTHER, NOT UNLIKE WHAT MY CLONE HAS FOR ME.
FOR GOD'S SAKE, WILL YOU GIVE THE SHOCK TREATMENT A REST, LUTHOR? I'M TRYING TO CONCENTRATE HERE!

YOU BARELY GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL, SNART; AND YET YOU'RE CAPABLE OF FABRICATING A WEAPONIZED COLD-ENGINE?
RRR.
WHEN I FIRST GOT HOLD OF THE COLD-GUN, AND YEAH--I STOLE THE ENGINE AND ITS PLANS--I SPENT TWO MONTHS TAKING IT APART AND PUTTING IT BACK TOGETHER... UNTIL I COULD DO IT WITH MY EYES CLOSED.
A COLD-GUN IS OF NO USE TO US.
IF THE SYNDICATE HAVE A SPEEDSTER, MY GUN'S GOING TO BE MORE USEFUL THAN YOU, MANTA.
YOUR GUN WILL MAKE THEM NUMB.
I DON'T WANT THEM TO BE NUMB.
YOU HAVE ISSUES.
I'VE STUDIED THE SYNDICATE ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT EVEN THE MOST POWERFUL OF THEM HAS A WEAKNESS.
AS OPPOSITE AS HE IS IN ACTION TO SUPERMAN, ULTRAMAN'S BIOLOGY ALSO APPEARS TO BE REVERSED FROM THE MAN OF STEEL'S.
ULTRAMAN HAS BEEN CONSUMING KRYPTONITE TO FUEL HIS POWERS AND AVOIDING DIRECT SUNLIGHT.
MEANING, HE CAN BE HURT.
MMRRK'F.
THN LL RT HM.
I THINK THAT MEANS BLACK ADAM'S IN.
KA-KLAK
AND SO AM I.
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE BACK IN BUSINESS, LUTHOR.
NO, COLD.
NOT QUITE YET.

THE UTAH SALT FLATS.
TOOELE ARMY DEPOT.
STAND ASIDE AND I'LL LET YOU LIVE, SOLDIERS! I'M ONLY HERE FOR GENERAL LANE!
TOOELE ARMY DEPOT
LANE TOOK MY HEART--SO I WANT HIS!
METALLO.
Hh?
OH. IT'S YOU.
YOU HAD ME WORRIED. FOR A SECOND I THOUGHT SUPERMAN WAS BA--
KRNCH
GHAKKZZZ
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU LIKE THIS BEFORE, ULTRAMAN.
WEAK.

CAREFUL WITH THAT TONGUE, SUPERWOMAN.
YOU KNOW I NEVER AM.
HOW MANY MORE SCRAPS OF KRYPTONITE ARE YOU GOING TO HUNGRILY CHASE DOWN BEFORE YOUR SUPPLY RUNS DRY?
I HAVE CONSUMED ENOUGH FOR THE INEVITABLE CONFRONTATION WITH THE ALIEN BEING THAT LAID WASTE TO OUR WORLD.
IT ISN'T COMING, ULTRAMAN.
WE NEED TO STOP BEING SO DEFENSIVE AND GET OFFENSIVE.
WE FOCUS ON RIDDING THIS WORLD OF THOSE WHO QUESTION OUR RULE AND PREPARE IT FOR ANOTHER ARRIVAL...
...CAN YOU HEAR IT?
A HEARTBEAT...
...WHEN WERE YOU GOING TO TELL ME YOU WERE PREGNANT?

AS SOON AS WE WERE SOMEPLACE SAFE AND ALONE.
YOUR LASSO OF SUBMISSION WON'T AFFECT ME, L.O.S.
OH, I KNOW THAT. I'M ONLY TRYING TO WARN YOU..
..YOU NEED TO WATCH OWLMAN.
CLOSER THAN USUAL.
I JUST LEFT THE SATELLITE. I OVERHEARD OWLMAN TALKING TO NIGHTWING.
WHY?
THE WORLD YOU KNEW, BOTH PERSONALLY AND GLOBALLY, IS FOREVER GONE. LIKE ME, RICHARD, YOU NEED TO START OVER.
I'M OFFERING YOU THAT CHANCE.
"OWLMAN IS PLANNING AGAINST US, CLARK. HE'S TRYING TO BUILD HIS OWN TEAM, INCLUDING NIGHTWING, TO CHALLENGE YOU AND ME."
HE'S GOING TO BETRAY US.
YOU NEED TO STAY STRONG FOR OUR CHILD.
I STAY STRONG FOR ME.
NO ONE ELSE.

CENTRAL CITY.
FORMER HOME TO THE FLASH
POWER LEVELS LOW. RECHARGE NECESSARY.
OH, NO. NO! I WON'T DO IT.
RECHARGE NECESSARY, YOU IDIOT
LOOK AT THIS MESS.
YOUR OVERREACTION AGAINST THE ROGUES HAS MADE THIS TASK MORE DIFFICULT, POWER RING.
THANKS TO MIRROR MASTER, THE ROGUES TRAVEL THROUGH A WEB OF REFRACTIONARY LIGHT THAT CONNECTS THE VISUAL PLANE.
I WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FOLLOW THEIR PATH IF YOU HAD NOT DISRUPTED IT BY SHATTERING THE WINDOW THEY VENTURED INTO.
DEATHSTORM?
AND NOW ULTRAMAN'S CALLING.
DON'T ANSWER IT!
ULTRAMAN, I'M SORRY TO REPORT THAT OUR SITUATION WITH THE ROGUES HAS ESCALATED.
DON'T TELL HIM IT WAS MY FAULT
THEY'VE SEPARATED AND ARE ON THE RUN--
GET BACK TO THE LAB, PROFESSOR STEIN. YOUR SOLE MISSION MOVING FORWARD IS TO UNLOCK FIRESTORM'S ABILITY TO TRANSMUTE ELEMENTS INTO KRYPTONITE--AN ABILITY YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED FOR LACKING.
I AM, BUT WHAT OF THE ROGUES?
POWER RING CAN DEAL WITH CAPTAIN COLD HIMSELF.
MYSELF? BUT ULTRAMAN... GO AFTER THEM ALONE?
I DON'T LIKE TO BE LEFT ALONE WITH THE RING. ESPECIALLY WHEN IT NEEDS TO BE CHARGED!
ULTRAMAN? ARE YOU ST-STILL THERE?
DEATHSTORM, WAIT! PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME!
FOR SATAN'S SAKE, POWER RING, BEG THE RING TO GROW YOU SOME BALLS OF GREEN FIRE--

"--AND GET HUNTING."
GRID? IT'S POWER RING!
CAN SEE AND HEAR THAT POWER RING. I REQUEST THAT YOU DISCONNECT YOUR RING FROM MY SYSTEMS. YOU ARE RENDERING ME BLIND
ULTRAMAN WANTED ME TO GET S-SOME BACKUP, S-SO TELL JOHNNY QUICK AND ATOMICA TO COME MEET ME IN CENTRAL CITY!
RIGHT AWAY!
JOHNNY QUICK AND ATOMICA ARE ALREADY IN BATTLE WITH THE DOOM PATROL.
THEN YOU HAVE TO COME! ULTRAMAN S-SAID S-SO.
THAT IS INCORRECT PER ULTRAMAN'S INSTRUCTIONS. I AM TO MAINTAIN THE POWER AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS.
WELL, S-SOMEONE ELSE HAS TO BE OUT THERE WHO WILL HELP ME!
THERE IS. I HAVE SENT THEM EN ROUTE TO YOU.
HAVE A NICE DAY
YOU, TOO...
...YOU S-STUPID ROBOT.
"STAY QUIET."

. AND STAY HIDDEN.
I DON'T MIND, LUTHOR. IT'S A SIGN OF WEAKNESS.
I REALIZE YOU HAVE AN OPINION ON HOW WE GO ABOUT CONFRONTING THE SYNDICATE, ADAM--AND I'M ASSUMING YOU'RE COMPLAINING ABOUT OUR CURRENT PLAN OF ACTION--BUT THE LAST TIME YOU TOOK THEM HEAD-ON, YOUR JAW WAS CRUSHED.
I WANT WHAT YOU WANT, BUT TO DO THIS PROPERLY WE NEED THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE AND WE NEED TO BE ABSOLUTELY PREPARED.
GRUNT AGAIN IF YOU DISAGREE.
THERE'S AN OLD SEWER TUNNEL CUT OFF FROM THE OTHERS.
IT WILL LEAD US RIGHT UNDER THE STORAGE FACILITY.
RR.
WHAT IS IT, CREATURE?
DOES THAT THING HAVE A NAME?
IT HAS A LABEL, COLD--SUBJECT B-ZERO.
WELL, LUTHOR. . .
. . I THINK OLD B-ZERO'S AFRAID OF THE DARK.

LEAVE THE MONSTER BEHIND. WE DON'T NEED HIM.
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, CREATURE.
COME ON, LUTHOR!
YOU GO OR STAY.
IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME.

WHEN I WAS YOUNG. . LIKE YOU, I SUPPOSE .. I WASN'T AFRAID OF THE DARK.
BUT I WAS AFRAID OF SOMETHING.
RR.
I WAS SEVENTEEN WHEN MY SISTER GREW ILL...AND THERE WAS NOTHING ANYONE COULD DO FOR HER, EXCEPT, I BELIEVED; ME. I THOUGHT I COULD SAVE HER.
BUT I DIDN'T TRY.
I WAS AFRAID TO FAIL. I WAS AFRAID TO FAIL THE ONLY PERSON IN MY LIFE THAT EVER MEANT ANYTHING TO ME.
SO INSTEAD OF WALKING INTO THE UNKNOWN ..I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
SHE...
...DIED LATER THAT YEAR.
I NEVER AGAIN LET THE FEAR OF FAILURE STOP ME.
HFF. WHAT AM I EVEN WASTING MY BREATH FOR?
RR.
BIZARRO...
YOU'RE A MISTAKE.
A MINDLESS MONSTER.
...TRY.

WAYNE ENTERPRISES IS DIRECTLY ABOVE US.
THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?
ADAM. B ZARRO.
MAKE A DOOR UPSTAIRS, WON T YOU?
CRAP.
SOMEONE BEAT US HERE.

UH-oh.
BATMAN.
LUTHOR.

GET BEHIND ME!
ONLY BECAUSE YOU ASKED SO NICELY.
YOU SAID YOU COULD ACTIVATE THAT BOX-THINGEE AND TELEPORT US WHEREVER WE NEEDED TO GO. AND WE NEED TO GO AWAY FROM HERE.
BEFORE WE CAN, WE NEED TO TURN IT ON.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE AT WAYNE ENTERPRISES SELINA. BUT WHAT THE HELL IS LUTHOR DOING HERE?
I THOUGHT BATS AND COMPANY WERE DEAD, LUTHOR.
DOES THAT MEAN SUPERMAN'S OUT THERE TOO?
NO. NO, SUPERMAN'S DEAD. HE HAS TO BE.
FOUND YOU!

BEWARE MY POWER!

DEATHSTROKE!
SHOOT ANY OF THEM THAT ST-STAND UP.
THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE TO DO.
BUT.. S THAT. .OH, NO! HE S ALIVE? BATMAN'S ALIVE?!
KILL B-BATMAN.
KILL HIM QUICK!
WHAT DO WE DO?
WE FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE, CATWOMAN.
KRAK!
EVERYONE STAY IN THE GREEN LIGHT. SHADOWTHIEF CAN'T--
GREEN LIGHT, LUTHOR? ALL I SEE S YELLOW.
WHAT THE HELL IS BATMAN WEARING?
BEWARE YOUR POWER?

TIME TO BEWARE MINE.
AAARRGH!!
NO! ST-STOP IT!

WARNING. POWER LEVELS APPROACHING ZERO.
S-SNAKES EAT BATS.
NNGGGFFF!
AHHH!
I GOT IT!
YES! THE REST OF THE S-SYNDICATE WILL SEE ME DIFFERENTLY AFTER THIS. BECAUSE THIS IS FINALLY IT!
THIS IS MY MOMENT!
LOOK AT THE ST-STUPID THING.
A YELLOW RING?
YOU CAN'T HURT ME WITH THIS.
A YELLOW RING CANNOT HURT YOU?

I BEG TO DIFFER, MY FRIEND.
NEXT:
SINESTRO
VS.
POWER RING
--GUESS WHO WINS?

FOREVER EVIL

FOLLOW ALL MONTH LONG!

NEXT WEEK

FOREVER EVIL: A.R.G.U.S. #3

Steve Trevor must team up with an enemy to find Firestorm and free the imprisoned Justice League – Killer Frost!

JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK #26

The Crime Syndicate's Sea King, last seen at the end of "Trinity War," has cheated death and now plagues the Justice League Dark team!

IN TWO WEEKS

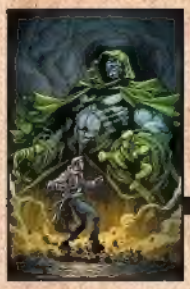
FOREVER EVIL: ARKHAM WAR #4

As the freed villains from Blackgate and Arkham continue to wage war, an all-new, all-deadly Dynamic Duo hits the streets of Gotham City! It's Bane and the Talon known as Cobb as you've never seen them before!

TRINITY OF SIN: THE PHANTOM STRANGER #15

With the secret of the Sea King revealed, the Phantom Stranger is faced with an impossible choice: let the villains win or destroy the last true friend he has!

IN THREE WEEKS



FOREVER EVIL: ROGUES REBELLION #4

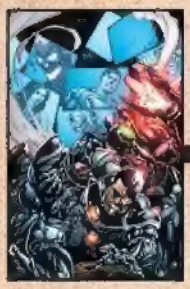
The Rogues just can't catch a break! On the run from the Crime Syndicate and the Secret Society, the Rogues are forced into a showdown with an army of escapees from Arkham Asylum!

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #11

Survivors Martian Manhunter and Stargirl make a perilous trek across a Super-Villain-occupied United States. Their first stop may be their last as they enter Gotham City and Clayface-occupied territory!

CONSTANTINE #10

Brought low by the evil of Blight, Constantine struggles to rally his mystical allies and turn the tide of battle. Only one thing stands in his path: the righteous wrath of The Spectre!



SUICIDE SQUAD #27

As Amanda Waller and James Gordon Jr. fight for their lives in the bowels of Belle Reve, Deadshot and the Squad try to survive a deadly trap set by one of their own!

IN FOUR WEEKS

JUSTICE LEAGUE #27

With the Justice League still missing, a barely functional Cyborg will need help if he's to take down the Crime Syndicate! To do that, he must find Doctor Will Magnus!

TRINITY OF SIN: PANDORA #7

A major turning point for Pandora, who reluctantly joins forces with John Constantine's team of mystical underdogs to confront the personification of all evil: Blight!

AND NEXT MONTH

FOREVER EVIL #5

With everything to lose, Lex Luthor and his Injustice League raid the stronghold of the Crime Syndicate with consequences so devastating, the DC Universe will never be the same!

BROADCASTING FROM THE MOBILE PLANET CADMUSWORLD...
...IT'S THE C52000 NEWSFEED!
IT'S THE FUTURE OF NEWS WITH THE C52000 NEWS TEAM!
YOU CAN'T NAVIGATE THE 31ST CENTURY WITHOUT US!
C52000
THE WONDER TWINS AT CADMUS ARE READY TO DEBUT THEIR NEW JUSTICE LEAGUE TEAM! WILL THE EXPLOITED DNA OF THE ORIGINAL HEROES BE READY TO FLY...OR WILL THEY SHOW UP DEAD ON ARRIVAL? C52000 HAS THE REAL-TIME RESULTS!

Wishing you a happy holiday from all the members of Empire.